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**TO:** Ms. Marianne S. Ocampo  
**FIRM:** USPTO  
**FAX NO:** 703-872-9681  
**DATE:** May 28, 2003  
**FROM:** Bryan H. Davidson, Reg. No. 30251  
**PAGES:** 7 (including this cover page)  
**YOUR REF:** Serial No. 09/744,159 filed 1/22/01  
**OUR REF:** 496-34 (formerly 3547-6)

**MESSAGE**

Dear Ms. Ocampo,

As we discussed on the telephone earlier today, I have attached a draft version of amended and new claims for this application which I would like to discuss during a personal interview. At that time, we could also review samples of the individual self-contained filter module elements.

You will note that the only independent claim is claim 23. However, claim 23 is proposed to be amended so as to emphasize various structural and functional distinctions attributable to the present invention. For example, you will observe that the claimed filter module is now recited to comprise "...a separable stack of individual self-contained *filter module elements*". These "filter module elements" are thus defined as being the individual *self-contained* filter regions as well as the individual *self-contained* first and second types of draining layers. Many of the other changes proposed to claim 23 are for purpose of clarity and/or syntax.

Most of the "new" dependent claims correspond to the previously submitted dependent claims, but have been revised so as to be consistent with the language now employed in claim 23. Proposed new claim 27 is based on the invention embodiment shown in FIGURE 6 and its corresponding descriptive text at page 10 of the specification.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you next week concerning this application and the possibility of a personal interview.

With Best Regards,

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE**

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

**STROHM et al**Atty. Ref.: **496-34**Serial No. **09/744,159**Group: **1723**Filed: **January 22, 2001**Examiner: **Ocampo**For: **FILTER MODULE**

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**DRAFT**

May 28, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Sir:

Responsive to the "final" Official Action dated January 15, 2003, petition being hereby made for an extension of time of two (2) months up to, and including, June 15, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as noted in the following sections.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121, each section of the subject Amendment (e.g., Claim Amendments, Specification Amendments, Drawing Amendments and Remarks) as may be appropriate to the issues raised in the Official Action to which this paper responds, begins on a separate page. Changes to the original text, claims and the like are shown by striking through language to be deleted and underlining of language to be added.

**DRAFT**